

Repent!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

by

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Published by
SHEPHERDSFIELD PUBLISHERS
777 Shepherdsfield Road
Fulton, Missouri 65251

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Repent!

“In those days came John the Baptist. . .saying: ‘REPENT ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’”

Matthew 3:1-2

“From that time came Jesus, saying, ‘REPENT, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’”

Matthew 4:17

“REPENT” became Peter’s first word of counsel.

Acts 2:38

Founded in the Messiah’s first word, we are forced to conclude THAT was also the first word He instructed to preach as He sent forth the 12. Or, from whence did Peter’s first word come? Manifestly, from the command by the Messiah.

For, the Kingdom of God (or of Heaven) does not incept in any Country, State or City where its people approximate the same as those of 2,000 years ago, or as of today. Therefore: REPENTANCE over the previous attitudes and established ways, becomes A MUST!

Is there as much as one instance within Christendom where that Kingdom is manifest – even in a measure? YES! Thousands of them!

Go to the home of an intelligent, devout Christian couple

– maybe in their mid-30s – the parents are perpetually sacrificing themselves for THE GOOD of their several children. The eldest has been instructed to “watch over” the younger! THAT applies to whichever one is the older among the group, not only to prevent mistreatment of the younger, but also to prevent accident by the very young, incidental to lack of understanding. It is the FAMILY spirit: *The more mature are ever helping the younger.*

Howbeit, *lack* of the Heavenly Kingdom becomes apparent when some member gets sick. It requires Divine Power to speak the normalizing word.

Today, as we observe earth’s humanity, there is next to no trace found of the BASICS which the Christ laid down. Not even within any nation of Christendom!

“This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

John 15:12

“These things I command you, that ye love one another.”

John 15:17

“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, IF ye have love for one another!”

John 13:35

“The prince of this world (the devil) approaches, but has nothing in Me”!

John 14:30

Which means that the world as we know it today – even within Christendom (so-called) – constitutes the Kingdom of THE DEVIL! Hence, sorrows, misery, crime. . . .

Admittedly, there is much within our lands which appears GOOD unto us. But nowhere in Scripture do we find that the Devil is 100% EVIL. We know by the ancient Prophet that the Devil has aspired to become God’s rival. That implies the need to build up a kingdom. Which again necessitates

bringing about much which the people desire to have and enjoy.

In the Devil's Kingdom EVERYONE IS FOR SELF (as we are well aware today)! But in God's Kingdom, everyone lives FOR HIS NEIGHBOR! (“... *And the second is like it: ‘love your neighbor as yourself’* [Matt. 22:39]!) That becomes a duplication of the FAMILY SPIRIT – as already mentioned. But WHY? Because of that which has been hammered at you: The spirits indwelling humanity, are all the Spirit-begotten children of the Creator! THAT is the reason for the Christ hammering at us that we must manifest LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER – because we all constitute His FAMILY!

It is folly to argue that The Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world without the need of repentance! Yet, supposing that was/is true: so what?! Unless there has been searing repentance, we observe little difference in the life lived during the next year – except perhaps, “going to church”! By which facts we perceive the particle-worth of “believing ON Jesus” without repentance!

Can a multitude of sinners become the Kingdom of God (or Heaven)?

Utterly impossible. Today's humanity establishes that....

“REPENT,” as used by the Christ and the Baptist, means immensely more than “I'm sorry”! It's a complete CHANGE! One has lived for SELF, but when repentance has entered, then ONE LIVES FOR OTHERS.

Except in His messages to Smyrna and Philadelphia, REPENT is commanded! Even unto Ephesus, the One Glorified said that repentance was required because “*you have left Your First Love*”! Or have you forgotten the LITTLE THINGS you did to impress the object of your LOVE, when first you were truly IN LOVE?

It could be correctly argued that such minor matters are not essential for the Here and Now, nor for God's Kingdom

on earth. But Christ Almighty looks forward to the day that we shall appear in the fullness of His own Stature. *That* goes far beyond (*Rev. 14:1-5*). Even THAT is implied by:

“...And have dominion over the fish of the sea (emotions), and over the fowl of the air (thoughts); every living thing that moves upon the earth” (all the labors [works] of man must be properly motivated).

See Genesis 1:23

Look to the Messiah: His entire life was LIVED FOR OTHERS. Neither did He acquire property: no, not as much as a pillow on which to rest His head! The Father lives for His children. While the elder among them is ever helping the younger ones.

Neither kid yourself that you will get “perfected” in Heaven! HE created Planet Earth for that very purpose....

IF you are in need of Repentance over this or that, NOW it is a hundredfold more urgent than ever before, for, “*His strange act*” (*Isa. 28:21*) is about to incept!

May you be found “*without fault before the Throne of God*” (*Rev. 14:5*).

Sin vs. Error

"**S**in." I imagine that most of you have heard that word before. I wish to put it into these words: "What is sin?" I suppose that many could reply to me, "well, look in the Bible, look to the laws and ordinances, the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments (as they are sometimes called). That tells you what sin is." Yet, I have a different definition of sin.

Let me illustrate it by referring to a parent. Perhaps you would have to go back a number of years to the time that you had a young one, let us say, between 2 or 3 years of age. And because he was so young, naturally he would have had very little understanding. *HOW MUCH UNDERSTANDING DO YOU AND I HAVE IN CONTRAST TO OUR WONDERFUL LORD AND SAVIOR – EVEN TO THE CREATOR? !* I believe that if we pool all of our intelligence and knowledge, it is less in contrast to the Creator than that of a young toddler of 2 years of age, than to the maturity of understanding of a parent, that might be about 40 years of age.

And so, coming back then in considering this little toddler, we might also add that you the parent were in somewhat pioneering days, therefore you didn't have much. But after some years you arrived at that point in your life and financial progress that electricity was put into your home. Therein you might have had an electric range. In such an event you would say to your young one, "when that is turned on and you see its red coils there, you must not touch those

coils because it is dangerous, it would hurt you!" But you'd scarcely turned your back and gone into another room when you heard a horrible scream, and you rushed back to find your young one with a horribly burnt hand. Had he sinned? He had done harm to himself. Yet the important thing is he had gone against your instructions, against your warning, and had resorted to self-will, going his own way to find out if you knew what you were talking about.

THAT is sin, even Self-will. It doesn't matter if it is mentioned in the Bible or not! So soon as you or I go contrary to the will of the Heavenly Father Who has given us guidance, THAT is sin. Again, back to that 2 year old toddler; first he had injured himself horribly. Secondly, that act of self-will means to the parent much grief, much loss of time, and much expense. Because, so soon as possible, that young one would have to be rushed to a doctor, if a doctor was within reach.

Now, that's an illustration of ourselves in relationship to our Heavenly Father. The Laws are not given to burden us. The Laws are set down for our good. They are spiritually discerned, such as "six days you shall work, and on the seventh day you shall cease from all your labors, except that which is absolutely essential." How can you or I *prove* that there's any difference if we work on Saturday, or if we work on Sunday or Monday? Yet I am simple enough, and it has been proven to me by the Eternal God, that if I go contrary to that, I enter into grief.

On not less than two very, very distinct occasions, God's Sabbath Law was brought home to me forcibly by that which befell me incidental to my saying to myself, "well that can't be labeled *work*; I'll just do that, but it's not work!" That constituted the foolish thoughts of an ignorant person, or a self-willed person, even though at that time I had been converted, I had been immersed in water, and I was endeavoring to live the Christian life. But you know, what's in our own mind often leads us astray. We think *we* know. As I just related, I said to myself, "well that can't be construed as work."

But it was something that was not *essential* at that moment, it wasn't *necessary*. And therefore I went contrary to the Divine Parent's will and I reaped the consequences thereof. The Lord proves Himself; He's ever ready to prove Himself. And that is one contributing reason why I revere the word of our Heavenly Father.

There are various types of sin. We could say there's various ways in which we can manifest our self-will. Why do we manifest our self-will? Because of an inflated ego – we think we know. But how little we know. Oh, we may be learned, but even the great brains of such as Albert Einstein know so very, very, very little in contrast to our Wondrous Lord and Creator.

Moreover, I wish to briefly touch on sin versus error. We may make many errors which are not sin. In the Old Testament times, under the Law, there were various ways in which a person could sin. And, there were various ways in which a person could 'trespass'; that is, doing something contrary to the Law, yet in ignorance. For such trespasses, there was a trespass offering required, in order that the person should be cleared before God. And, there were other forms in which he might enter into uncleanness, such as touching the body of a dead person, which made the one coming in contact unclean until sunset.

Here let me give you just a crude illustration of an "error." Bear in mind I said a 'crude illustration', because I'm not a master of words and parables as was our Lord. We will imagine a person, an immigrant to our land, and not much educated in these days about video tapes, and especially not about pornographic video tapes. So, he comes to a store where these are available, yet he doesn't know what's on the tapes. He just has a few dollars which he had in mind to spend to buy a gift for some children or youngster that he loved. So, he buys one of those pornographic tapes and gives it to them. I'm not going to go into details with you because most know as much about such things as I and can envision the results of that just as well as I can. By doing so, he accom-

plished or did that which resulted in great grief, and which the parents later grieved over immensely. He did not "sin" for the simple reason that he did not *know*, he did not understand, he did not envision the consequence of that which he did. We can label that a trespass, or we can label that an error. And I'm sure that most of you, maybe all of you, know that you make similar errors in judgment sometimes, and errors in conduct, and in words of speech, and yet you haven't sinned. They were just error.

Now, you are all aware how we are told in Scripture, by the Prophet Isaiah, how our Lord bore the sins of the people (*Isa. 53*). He poured out His soul into death as an offering for the sins and iniquity of the people. And that He carried our sins, and took them upon Himself. I mention this in order that you may better understand that which I am endeavoring to set before you. He bore our sins upon His own body on the Cross.

So, we come to that point in life where we accept our Lord and Savior, and we are washed clean in His blood. Yet I have observed in my life that there are those who have come to repentance and have accepted Christ the Lord as their Savior. For many that was over a weekend, perhaps at an altar call in church on Sunday. And yet, on the following Monday or Friday or Saturday, or the second week or the third week, whenever it might be, or perhaps at different times, they tell a lie, or do something which in the past was common to them; such as, perhaps, a bit of cussing, or even swearing. I state with great conviction that the selfsame Lord Who bore our sins upon the Cross still receives our errors, our trespasses, our transgressions, our self-will manifesting just because our ego is somewhat inflated.

But momentarily, I wish to relate something from the Mosaic Tabernacle. We are told there was a Holy Place in the western half, and after the Holy Place (which was a 10 x 20), there was the Holiest, which was a 10 x 10 x 10, that is, a cubicle. In that cubicle was placed the Ark of the Testimony.

We also know that the Lord said, to and through Moses, that after the people had entered the land promised unto the fathers, and had chased out, and/or overcome the local residents which they had been commanded to exterminate, He would give them rest and would choose out a place where the Tabernacle should be pitched; and, therein He would place His Name (*Deut. 12:10-12*). And yet there is not the faintest record, nor even a hint in Scripture, that there was any name inscribed anywhere within that Mosaic Tabernacle. But in the Holiest Place abode the Shekinah Glory. Only the High Priest could lawfully enter that Holiest Place, and that only once a year, yet not without blood (*Ex. 30:10; Heb. 9:7*). That Shekinah Glory I have claimed, and still maintain, was His Name – His Signature – the evidence of the Everliving God there.

And so I come back to what I said a moment ago: The Lord is still there receiving everything that we do and say. Some is unto good, and some is not acceptable, and that is channeled through the Christ. He records to our good that which we do and say unto good. While the other must be annulled. I say that the Christ is able, and it is absolutely essential for Him to annul, to disintegrate our every word and deed which is not right and proper.

Let me illustrate it this way: you have a car, it has a storage battery. When I was fairly young, and starting to study gasoline engineering, I was told that if you put a spoonful or so of a wrong acid into it, it spoils the battery. It will lose its power and you can't start your car. It can't function because the battery has been spoiled. And similarly, everything that we do and say which is contrary to the Lord's divine will, Who is the Divine Parent and knows that which is good for us, He has to destroy, even the vibrations of our every word and deed which does not pass His criteria. By which, I'm trying to tell you that the Lord's work did not cease when He exhaled the last breath on Calvary's Cross. He is still working for you and for me.

✓ And may it enter deeply into your convictions that every day is an important day for you, and its an important day for Christ the Lord in relationship to you. How much grief and pain do you want to cause Him this day or tomorrow? Those are serious thoughts and questions that you should ever bear in mind. For, unless we live up to that highest concept of Christ our Lord and the life we should live, I'm not saying that that sends you to Hell, but I'm saying that it's a demerit mark for you. The Lord said while on earth speaking of John the Baptist, that he was the greatest Prophet ever born of woman, yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John the Baptist (*Matt. 11:11*)! That indicates one level here, and another level, and another level. In other words, various levels of spiritual attainment, power and service in the Kingdom of Heaven for that multitude which is there, and shall there inhabit.

In my writings I have spoken of a "truth tide." When we read the days of Creation, we see that after every Creative day, God looked and saw that everything was good. And at the close of the 6th day of Creation, He looked and found everything "*very* good." So, let us liken the Kingdom of Heaven to your own front room, or whatsoever place you wish. You have it arranged the way that you want it, or the way you think it ought to be. Then, someone comes in and transposes two chairs, or maybe moves the piano or such. We can't say that it was something horribly wrong, yet *you* didn't like it. Therefore, you go to work to change things back again. Now that illustrates what I just labeled as God's "truth tide." He has preplanned and arranged everything, and that which is for your and my ultimate and greatest good. Wherefore, when we tell a white lie, or when we tell a 'whopper', that is contrary and goes against the stream of the Truth-tide. Therefore, our Wondrous Lord must put that through His own, for lack of a better word, 'separator'; or perhaps computer in these days is a better word. That He does in order to separate between that which passes His criteria, and that which does not pass His criteria.

In the *First Epistle of John, Chapter 3 verse 8*, we are told that the Son of the All Highest was manifested that He might destroy the works of the Devil ! That's a part of that which I have already said: the Truth-tide. The works of the Enemy go contrary to God's Truth-tide, that placid sea, if we might term it that. When you tell the white lie or the whopper, or you do that which you shouldn't, that causes a ripple, or maybe a wave, on that Truth-tide; some of it might even cause a little storm. Our Lord has to annul that! If He did not annul it, this galaxy would meet the same fate as the storage battery I mentioned earlier. When someone puts in a spoonful of a wrong acid, or maybe a cupful of syrup, or something like that, it destroys the battery.

The Lord is still working for you and for me. I wonder if in this earth-life, we can arrive at that stage where we fully and properly appreciate Him, and where we worship before Him and adore Him in that spirit which He so richly deserves, and which He has so richly earned by that sacrifice He made for us. Not that sacrifice on Calvary's Cross, but commencing at the very moment He left the Glory at the Father's side to come to Earth for our redemption, and to live every day of His Earth-life as a sacrifice. Bear that in mind, beloved, that we may ever appreciate and adore Him.

3

Repent!

**...FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
IS ABOUT TO INCEPT!**

Although I realize that I have mentioned the substance of my present thoughts more than once in the past, yet I am convinced that the time has arrived for this one particular thought to be **STRESSED** above all others:

RE P E N T !

for, the Kingdom of Heaven is about to incept!

THAT was the first and basic thought expressed by John the Baptist, and also by Jesus the Nazarene Who became the Christ. But comes the thundering response from multitudes of Christians:

"WE DID REPENT LONG AGO"!

It is not the "long ago" which applies today!

IT IS TODAY YOU MUST REPENT!

You thousands which did repent in the long ago: has your life been perfect ever since? Or was it perfect in the sight of God – even as recently as yesterday? Did you not speak as much as one word amiss? Did you never harbor an UNChristlike thought? Or never for a moment did you nourish an UNGodly desire?

"BE YE PERFECT AS YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IS

PERFECT!"

Matthew 5:48

✓ UNLESS, and UNTIL you can in all sincerity say: "I AM PERFECT," then is REPENTANCE your greatest need.

BE NOT DECEIVED by the blathering pulpit parrots which shamelessly declare: "We are all sinners"!

Kid not yourself that God is ever going to take SINNERS into Heaven! This earth was created to be A REFORMATION for sinners! Our world on this planet of cold facts and hard knocks with its long era of Cause and Effect was established by the Elohim to teach the young and obstreperous, that SIN IS FOLLY!

WHAT IS SIN? Sin is SELF-will practiced contrariwise to the Divine will (which Divine Will is the FATHER's WILL).

It helps much to keep the pews filled to repeatedly tell the simple and credulous that: "We are all sinners; but the Son of God PAID IT ALL – on our account!" No doubt: multitudes of churchgoing Christians ARE SINNERS.

"Jesus paid it all" is only true up to a point! When the sin-steeped come to repentance, accepting the Son of God as one's Passover Lamb, THEN is it fully true that "Jesus paid it all" (for that person). But thereafter, REPENTANCE becomes an ever-present NEED throughout a long period of time – even UNTIL an ACCEPTABLE (in the sight of God) degree of perfection is achieved. Otherwise, this Earth-REFORMATION remains the "playground" for sinners throughout a long period of time. . . .

WHAT is the "Kingdom of Heaven? Is it synonymous with the "Kingdom of God?! NO! !

In the Authorized Version and – presumably – many other versions, the two expressions are used interchangeably. How lamentable!

Why do parents send their children to school? To learn

“the 3 Rs,” sometimes a little more, all of which is to prepare them for adult life (hopefully). This earth – when its RE-
FORMATORY program has been completed, shall eventually manifest the GLORY OF GOD’S KINGDOM!

BY PARABLE the Lord Jesus Christ inferred that HE was going away into a distant country to receive for Himself A KINGDOM, and then to return (with that Kingdom). WHEN with that He returns, that will be THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, and shall thus objectively manifest. THEN shall fulfill the Lord’s words unto Nathanael:

“Hereafter ye shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

John 1:51

NEVER shall the angels of God be seen ascending upon anyone ON EARTH. But stationed some distance above the earth becomes A MUST! Therefore the Kingdom of Heaven shall stand in relationship to the Kingdom of God, even as now do our classrooms and teachers in relationship to adult life.

“...yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, THIS is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

Isaiah 30:20-21

That vast multitude of the Kingdom of Heaven will overspread the entire earth – but living in and manifesting from the earth’s atmospheric envelope – to oversee, instruct and guide earthlings; thereby preparing and hastening the day that humanity shall manifest the glory of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

✓ Therefore, whosoever aspires to become a member of the Heavenly Kingdom, is in perpetual need of continuous RE-PENTANCE! (Yes: there may be redundancy there; yet RE-PENTANCE must be stressed like unto Skywriting in order

that lukewarm Christians may come to realize their DIRE NEED thereof.

If that you doubt, then slowly and thoughtfully read the words of warning and exhortation by the Glorified One unto the Church of Ephesus – *Revelation chapter 2*. THERE you will observe AN EXEMPLARY church – abounding in virtually everything which we think of as truly Christian. Yet the Glorified Lord beheld them in dire need of REPENTANCE....

Because the inception of the Kingdom of Heaven is drawing close to hand, believers who aspire unto a higher realm are in need of daily repentance – UNLESS having arrived at perfection.

May the Lord Jesus Christ in His compassion, strengthen and help you to

LIVE ALL OUT FOR HIM. . . .

Discipleship

"If any man come to Me, and hate not. . . his own life also . . . forsak[ing] all that he hath, cannot be My disciple."

Luke 14:26, 33

The Lord had concluded the Parable of THE ONE LOST SHEEP, and was gladly heard by the tax collectors and common sinners. Then He continued in parabolic teaching, slanting a somewhat similar vein of thought to THE LOST PIECE OF MONEY:

"Either what woman having ten drachmas, IF she lose one drachma, does not light a candle and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? ...And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying: 'Re-joice with me, for I have found the drachma which I lost'. Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents."

Luke 15:8-10

By the Lord's own words we see how He was STRESSING the 'JOY' in heaven over one repentant sinner. This has been partly covered elsewhere in articles, dealing with the ONE Lost Sheep. On other occasions He commended the righteous. But it is manifest that He took extra time and effort to stress the importance of *REPENTANCE* and to declare the exceeding joy among the angels of God over

every mortal turning from the error of his ways with A CONTRITE heart. Does not His Word declare:

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and A CONTRITE HEART, O God, Thou wilt not despise.”

Psalm 51:17

Here it appears in place to draw attention to Scripture renderings and the “doctrines of men” which may cause a soul to perish. In the first few verses of *Luke 13*, Jesus again stressed REPENTANCE. And in *verses 3* and *5* He said: “...but except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish.”

The Greek text uses “*metanoio*” which means TO REPENT, and certainly not to DO penance. Yet regardless of the precise words of the original and the proper translation, any clear thinking person can decide which is THE TRUTH. As an illustration let us say that today Mr. Fibber tells a horrible lie. True to his religious teachings, he ‘confesses’. Straightway he is asked to DO PENANCE. *Maybe* this penance will consist of walking with a few dried peas in his shoes for a day or two, or to repeat a prescribed prayer a specified number of times. Yet when the “Penance” is over, it may be that he figures, ‘GOOD, NOW THAT IS SETTLED!’ And in the course of another few days the discomfort endured is well forgotten, and so he tells another whopper – maybe worse than the previous! The danger of ‘penance’ lies in the fact that the person can so easily get into the false psychology that *he* has ‘atoned’ for his evil, and that if he errs again, he can also DO some more ‘penance’. Yet even a child in spiritual understanding should realize that such ‘penance’ carried on throughout a hundred years ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING UNLESS ** A TRUE REPENTANCE HAS TAKEN ROOT WITHIN THE SOUL **

** “Be ye PERFECT as your Father in Heaven is PERFECT.” **

Matthew 5:48

God looks for WHOLENESS and PERFECTION: He is not

the slightest interested in what gymnastics or paces a person may put oneself through UNLESS it accomplishes a renovation of the human heart!

IF Mr. Fibber can be given to realize that no thing or person can ever come into the presence of God which is not ABSOLUTELY TRUE AND PURE, and IF he can be made to see that SEPARATION from God, shall mean untold and AGE-lasting grief for him, it may be that he will come to a true REPENTANCE of his errors, and wholeheartedly embrace TRUTH. . . . Therefore I say: IF dried peas or beans in your shoes, or stereotyped prayers will help you to come to great and true grief over the error of your ways, and enable you to wholeheartedly embrace the opposite VIRTUES, then by all means keep a generous stock of large, hard peas on hand, and walk on them frequently. For, if such antics will cleanse your heart, then assuredly you can make no better investment for eternity. But this much you should discern, that the 'penance' profits nothing UNLESS it brings about A TRUE REPENTANCE. Therefore it follows logically that it is REPENTANCE and NOT PENANCE which truly counts with God. Yet if penance can help a person to come to REPENTANCE, then let penance be done; otherwise cast it aside as a profitless antic invented in the eras of spiritual darkness.

This has not been intended as a contribution to a religious controversy, but rather to set STRAIGHT *the factors of discipleship*. . . . It is the soul WITHIN which results in the life LIVED WITHOUT. It is the human mind and soul which must be DISCIPLINED. Wherever the mortification of the flesh helps to DISCIPLINE THE SOUL – it is highly commendable. Yet the tormenting of the flesh profits nothing unless thereby THE SOUL IS DISCIPLINED!

*** A TRUE REPENTANCE IS THE WHIPLASH OF SOUL-DISCIPLINE! ***

We should also realize that true repentance which leads to a transformed life, constitutes a VICTORY for the angel in

charge of that person. The person who has done well in this life may be admired and respected, but the person who has known defeat and poverty, yet had risen far above it to succeed eminently, is the person who received more attention, acclaim and admiration!

Likewise is it with the angels in heaven who minister unto human beings. Those whose charges have lived lives of righteousness consistently are, naturally, very well pleased. But that guiding spirit whose charge **URNS** from the depths of degradation to embark upon a life of righteousness, **HAS SCORED A SIGNAL VICTORY**, and great is the rejoicing in their midst. While those whose charges never turn from the path of wickedness, have lost the battle unto the evil spirit operating in that person's life.

Think not that the spirit world is full of idleness; but rather a scene of the intensest activity and rivalry. The rivalry is not among the forces of **GOOD**, but rather between the forces of **LIGHT** and those of darkness. With them as with us, their future is largely dependent on the amount of **SUCCESS** they achieve in the field of their operations.

There are two camps, each with its own **GREAT CHIEF**: Christ and Lucifer. Though we may say 'Christ' truthfully, yet the Bible designation for the Chief of Angelic Lights is that of 'Holy Spirit' (often warped to that of "Holy **GHOST**").

Speaking to the 70 evangelists on their return, Christ said He had "*beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven*" (*Lk. 10:18*). Some have interpreted this as describing Satan's expulsion from heaven, yet that is false doctrine. But when **THE POWER OF GOD** went into massive operation in the days of Christ's ministry, and in that of the 12 and 70, then Lucifer faced a terrific **CHALLENGE!** To meet that challenge to his power, he hurtled earthward like a bolt of lightning flash to personally muster his forces and "hold the fort" – if possible. Then followed 6 months during which Lucifer personally led the attack and shot the orders to all captains of his Dark Domain.

Did he succeed? Lucifer thought so, and great was the glee in their midst: in his triumph he exulted as he beheld 'the Son of God' nailed to the cross on Calvary's brow!

Or what think you Jesus meant when he said to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane: "*Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?*" (Matt. 26:53.) Would the angels of Light – had He summoned them – come to fight against flesh and bone? No! But to fight the legions of Lucifer's army then in battle against the Son of God – INSPIRING Judas and those who brought about the apprehension, condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus. . . .

– Only a few hours previously the angelic host of heaven under the White Banner had been released from battle duty which Christ announced in prayer: "*I have finished the work which thou gavest Me to do*" (Jn. 17:4). For the moment, the angel's work was done, and they then retired unto their Captain Therefore did He say later that night: "*...but this is your hour, and the power of Darkness*" (Lk. 22:53). He could have elaborated, saying: "This is your hour because the messengers of Darkness have been given complete control of the battlefield!"

How little man knows of the mighty battles waged, constantly in his vicinity! Where Lucifer prevails, evil flourishes. But his time is now short. Wherefore are the Powers of Darkness working a fever pitch.

Yet these facts should not discourage the individual Christian, for the Powers of Light in his behalf are greater than those of Darkness. Therefore is it written: "*...he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded*" (I Pet. 2:6). That is, the angel of light in charge will not permit the forces of Darkness to prevail to the confusion and downfall of the believer, even though momentary failures are permitted that the individual may come to better understand his weaknesses.

5

Rejoice!

“Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, ‘This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.’ And He spake this parable unto them, saying, ‘What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”

Luke 15:1-7

*REST little sheep –
 a-straying: entangled in brambles.
 a-tremble and bleeding.... Hark!
 Out o'er the rock-clefts
 His voice comes floating,
 calling the lambkin by name!
 – HEAR midst the dangers:
 REJOICE in the death-trap:
 His shoulders are mighty
 to carry you home!*

WHO but the incarnate Logos DIVINE can speak – off the cuff – 100 words to declare the Shepherd’s LOVE for His sheep? To therein reveal the PLAN OF SALVATION and eloquently declare its SUCCESS in manifold ways? . . . Come then; let us REJOICE together, for our Creator – the Alpha (1) and the Omega (100) – has spoken: ‘the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls’ has declared the ways and means and the PERFECTION of His plan for the ENTIRETY of His fold: that we – one and ALL – might come together REJOICING, yes, to REJOICE WITHOUT CEASING. . . .

‘See to that you make all things according to the pattern shown you in the mount!’. Is not God FAIR and JUST? (See *Gen. 18:25* and *II Sam. 23:3*.) Therefore was it also incumbent on Him to similarly CONFORM UNTO THE PATTERN – even unto ALL THINGS. And because He did, do we behold the matchless PERFECTION of His words; the sheer beauty of portrayal, and the impeccable wholeness of the pattern wrought! Yes, a marvelous pattern portrayed in such beauty and COMPLETENESS that none but the blessed Creator could be its author!

Was not that lost sheep able to walk, following the Shepherd? (He personally declared that the sheep would follow the shepherd: *Jn. 10:4*.) Why then was the sheep thrown on his shoulders? . . . The shoulders of a man bespeak his STRENGTH. Thus, even in the STRENGTH of “the Shepherd of Israel” are we borne in unto the fold! For, in our own strength we cannot survive, nor even reach the shelter of the sheepcote. (Every detail in its place!)

However, we should not fail to observe that this one sheep was originally ONE OF THE FOLD. Therefore speaks it pre-eminently unto the backslider – who MUST be brought back

into the fold. Yet in that He used the words (later): “one sinner that repents,” His parable becomes ALL-inclusive for ALL of His. The same is also portrayed by the ‘100’ number of the fold. THAT was the number of Isaac – portraying Jesus, therefore ALL of His! (*“In Isaac shall thy seed be called.”*)

OBSERVE! AND NEVER FORGET:

It was not a great flock decimated by a wolf-pack; it was NOT a valiant shepherd who fought against great odds and managed to save SOME of the sheep, nor MOST of the sheep; no, nor 98, nor even ALMOST all in the 99! ** THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOST NONE OF HIS SHEEP! ** The erring and straying He retrieved to the fold!

“...REJOICE, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart” (Ps. 32:11). Are we rejoicing? Are we shouting? Or have we been fed on sour applesauce so long that we are sour to the core? *“Awake thou that sleepest,”* and cast off the fetters of darkness’ tyranny, for our Glorious Redeemer strode in the majesty of His limitless strength; triumphing over every foe, breaking every barrier, snapping every shackle, that EVERY repentant sinner might become the object of Heavenly rejoicing. . . . SHOUT then, and rejoice without ceasing, for your time is short in which to declare all His goodness to you-ward!

“What man. . . among you...?” (Or, ‘who among you Jews?’) The question was not answered, but we know through the declaration of the Parable that the “who” was none but ‘He’!

WHO are the “*ninety and nine*”? – the “*just*” who “*need no repentance*”? Herein is a great mystery – LITTLE understood by the congregations, nor even understood by their teachers – drowsing in the night!

The number ‘9’ is that of A SPIRITUAL LOVE: it engenders peace and tranquility. Here, then, in the number 99, we have LOVE in 1st placement (*“Love thy neighbor as thyself”*), as well as in the placement for soul. This is that true love which

manifests in CHARITY, seeking nothing in return. They love PEACE and pursue it. They are 'the MEEK'. They are that group who shall be "blessed through father Abraham," who was 99 years old BEFORE Isaac was born!

Again the Lord voiced the same truth in saying: "*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*" (Matt. 9:13); and again: "*They that be WHOLE need not a physician!*" (Matt. 9:12)

Will a WELL man call a doctor? Or how can A RIGHTEOUS man repent? . . . Take men like Noah, Abraham and Isaac who lived before the Law: it is testified of them that they were righteous. How, then, could they come to REPENTANCE? Of what should they repent? To say that "all have fallen short" and sinned is ever so true, but does NOT answer the question. For, UNLESS and UNTIL a person knows within his heart, and UNDERSTANDS the error of his ways, he cannot 'repent'. Of these, then, like Noah and Abraham and countless others both before and SINCE, did our Lord speak when He referred to "the WHOLE" and the 'righteous', who are the same as the 99.

God talks to us in numbers. Once more, then, let us look at this 99. We have seen its goodness and 'wholeness' extending even into the SOUL. Yet what does it LACK – IF anything? Subtract it from the basic number of perfection or that of the whole fold, which is also the number of our Shepherd: (100 – 99 = 1). Subtracting, we find that it leaves or LACKS '1'. ONE is LIFE (Eternal Life!) HEAR then, the stunning truth:

The 'sinner' who REPENTS, partakes of a far greater measure of God's GRACE than do the righteous and 'whole' who NEED NO PHYSICIAN! Indeed they could call no physician, for they are not SICK (of sin)! As yet and at the moment, Christ can do NOTHING for them! It is the SINNER repentant who partakes of the care, of the Strength and the boundless LOVE of God through Jesus Christ. And to that He testified in the Parable by saying that the 'lost'

sheep He placed upon His shoulders, bringing it 'home' calling His friends and neighbors that a great celebration of REJOICING might be made. . . . But what about the ninety and nine?

– They “are left in the wilderness!” (Yes, read it again and see for yourself.) Although we may reason among ourselves, and conclude that no good shepherd would leave his flock in the wilderness to fend for itself, but that he would undoubtedly bring all home; yet we have no right to SUPPLY ACTION for our Lord, neither to inject a bunch of words He did not use, jumping to conclusions and start parroting them. We must take the ‘pattern’ as He delivered it, and in faith accept it as the “perfection of beauty” which He portrayed.

The 99 are left in the wilderness! THAT – beloved in Christ – is a type of this world; while the repentant sinner is borne home on His shoulders!

Throughout the Scripture, especially in that pertaining to the New Covenant, we find REPENTANCE crowding the pages; “...that REPENTANCE and remission of sins should be preached...” (Lk. 24:47).

It is doubtful that the human mind can fully grasp the underlying and detailed reason, but this much is evident: that REPENTANCE is an ESSENTIAL which enables the CLEANSING BLOOD of Jesus Christ to wash away the stain of sin which in turn opens the way for the two successive steps on the Path of the Cross, namely: being “born again,” and being “baptized with Spirit-fire.”

“*But go ye and learn what that meaneth*” said the Christ, in speaking of the whole and the sick; of righteousness and repentance. In other words: HERE IS A MYSTERY! Delve deep and tarry long, awaiting the inflooding of the Spirt-light, that you may PERCEIVE, and grasp fully, THE PLAN OF YOUR MAKER!

** “*The meek shall inherit the earth*” **

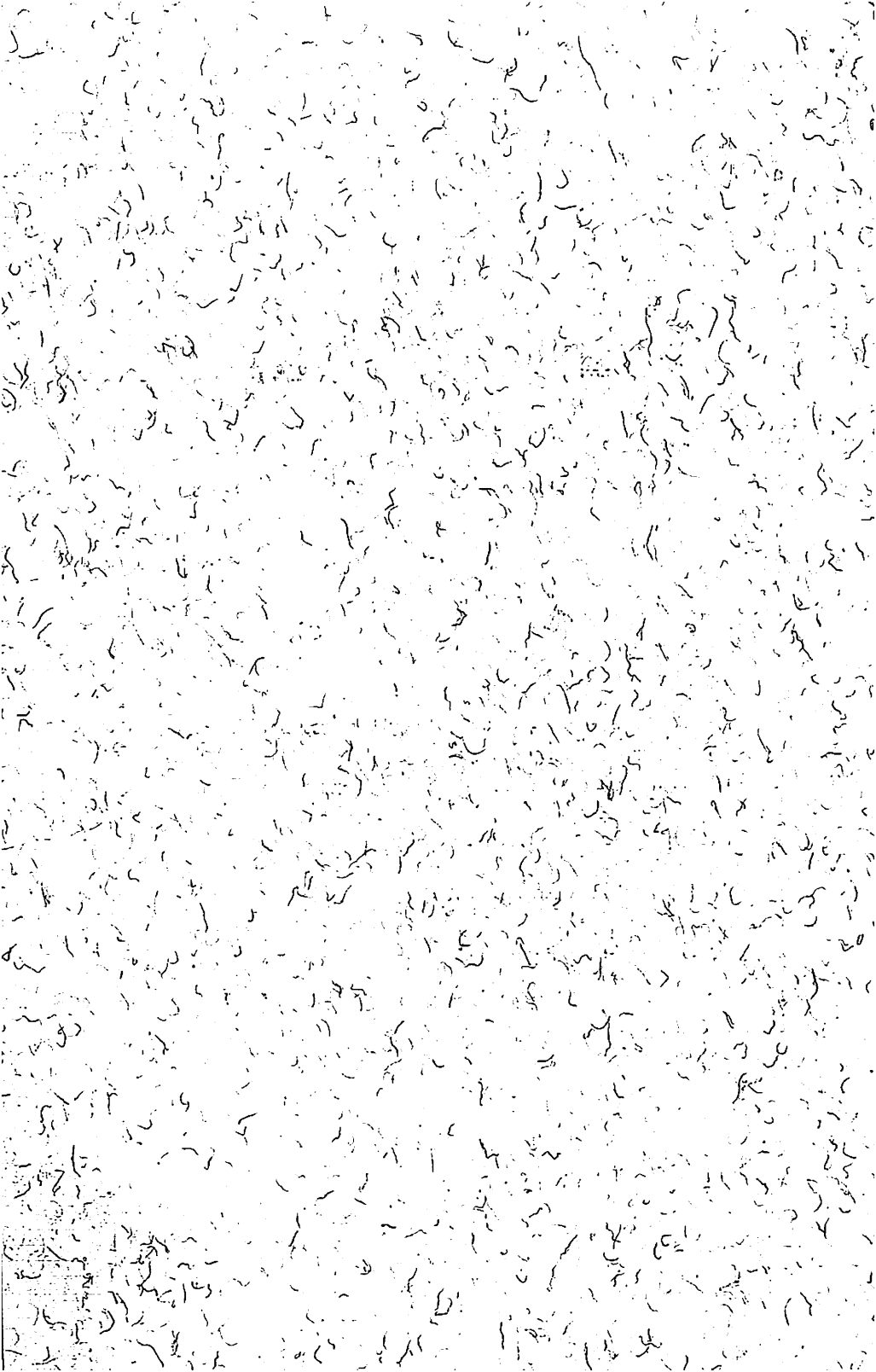
Matthew 5:5

**** *“The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.”***

Psalm 37:20

In other words, “the meek and the righteous” of all ages, are “left in the wilderness.” They shall **HAVE THEIR LOT HERE ON EARTH** during the Kingdom era, and shall long enjoy the fruit of their labors. But **SINNERS** who eventually **COME TO REPENTANCE** and “go on to **KNOW** the Lord,” get purged from their sins, and are “Born again” of the “in-corruptible seed” and sanctified by His Spirit: they get **TAKEN UP** and **CARRIED HOME!**

Offhand it would appear that the rankest sinner has a great advantage, **IF** he comes to repentance! Yet we should not jump to hasty conclusions, for there are other mysteries also involved in this matter. His **PLAN** is **PERFECT**, and the Lord is **JUST**. He is both able and prepared to **FILL TO OVERFLOWING** the cup of the **JUST** – even though it be at a later date.



Unless and until you can in all sincerity say: "I AM PERFECT," then is REPENTANCE your greatest need.

And don't kid yourself that you will get "perfected" in Heaven! Planet Earth was created for that very purpose. . . .

This book can help you better understand the real meaning of the word repentance. Don't be deceived into thinking that God is ever going to take SINNERS into Heaven!

What must *you* do?

Read and find out. . . .

Published by

Shepherdsfield Publishers

777 Shepherdsfield Road

Fulton, Missouri 65251

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*“The end of the age is coming soon. Therefore
be earnest, thoughtful men of prayer.”*
(I Peter 4:7 – Paraphrase)